

## **Arabella 1741**

### Chapter 1741

She clicked the remote, revealing the second page on the screen, "These are Martha's underlings, all the details about the welcome gift you arranged— the time, place, and amount—it's all here."

Louisa and Kenneth never imagined their child would dare do such a thing in secret. Their disappointment in her deepened.

"That day she went to Dawnstar's Rodeo Drive, charging Martin's card with shopping sprees—I happened to be there with Bella, doing some shopping. As an aunt, I wanted to give my niece a warm welcome back to the family with a special something. But that day, something happened."

Eunice pressed the remote again, and a boutique's surveillance footage filled the screen.

"I was picking out dresses when I overheard someone deliberately snatching the clothes Bella was interested in. Whatever Bella liked, the person tried to take."

Although the store manager noticed Eunice's displeasure and had the rude lady escorted out, banning her from future entry and even firing the sales associate for being impolite to Arabella.

her, only noting she wore a pink CNL ensemble and a white beret, with her brown hair in

New Year around the corner, I was pondering over the perfect gift for Bella. It was perfect timing – reps from all the major brands were coming around with New Year's

to him, swearing off any collaboration with their brand again. Under his persistent queries, she told him it

country. That pink CNL outfit? Only three in the world—two

dresses Bella was interested in. After being kicked out of the boutique and barred from all the shops on Rodeo Drive, thanks to Eunice's influence, she stood outside, cursing loudly. "Ever heard of the Collins family? Do you know who the Collins are? Do you know Kenneth? The Solterra tycoon,

were stunned by

this the Serena they

so fragile that she only knew how to

to a rooftop restaurant. I excused myself to the restroom and Serena just happened to be there. Probably spotting Bella, she lied to the manager, claiming she knew her

Louisa watched astonishment, as they saw Serena approach Arabella

was quick. She grabbed a napkin to shield herself, dodged, and in a swift motion, splashing red wine onto

Chapter 1742

Before, the girl had put on quite the show, acting as if she adored her sister, Bella, and she held Bella in the highest regard.

It was all a farce!!

Behind closed doors, she was actually bullying Bella.

Bella must have endured so much suffering, so many indignities at her hands.

"And there's even more," Eunice's gaze swept over them, "Back at our place, Serena would argue with Bella over simple breakfast items like fluffy omelets and cheesy egg wraps."

Kenneth and Louisa were speechless by the shock.

someone really be

egg wraps cost next to nothing, and besides, since when did Serena

know better to think Bella had taken her favorite dish, leaving her with nothing to eat. But

laden with a variety of delicious foods,

pettiness was

photos for Facebook to

that caused him to fall. Afraid that others would find out, she warned the servants to keep quiet, and she took it upon herself to apply medication, without

that even though she hasn't been deprived of anything in

dumbfounded, unable to imagine Serena

life of luxury as before, and yet, not only was she ungrateful, but she even had the

she say such

Chapter 1743

The screen showed Martin and Romeo having a full-blown fistfight right outside her front door, leaving Kenneth and Louisa absolutely gobsmacked. What on earth was happening? Why were these two throwing punches at each other?

"Over the past six months, Serena has kept Bella's existence from Martin, so he had no clue about her, nor did he know Serena was the adopted daughter of the Collins family."

"What did you just say?" Both Kenneth and Louisa were staggered in shock.

"Serena lied to Martin, telling him Romeo was the kind who abandons the old for the new. She claimed he was flaunting his new flame in front of his ex just to rub it in her face, to deliberately hurt her. She also set up these 'coincidental' run-ins. No matter where Serena and Martin were or what they were doing, Romeo would show up with his new love and outshine them. That's why Martin lost it and threw punches the moment he saw Romeo at my doorstep."

"Romeo can't be that childish!" Kenneth was fuming. "How could Serena stoop to such a level."

Lying had become second nature to her!

engagement with Romeo. We had hoped she would change, but she has continued to play the same tricks, even lying to her own boyfriend." Louisa's

is not an act. They don't need to put on a

back. Once, Romeo also made it clear to Martin that, before Martin came into the picture, he had rarely seen Serena. He was actually

Could it be that the reason Romeo came over with all those gifts, was not to see

assumed he had heard the news that they had found their biological daughter, and came specifically to bring gifts for his

But it turned out.

ever since Bella came back to

all because of Bella that the families' engagement

wouldn't have chosen Serena, regardless of the families' ties or even Phillip's persuasion to the

Serena, that's the whole

up, right?" Kenneth

Chapter 1744

"What in the world are you talking about?!" Both Kenneth and Louisa were frozen in shock, unable to believe that Serena could turn so malicious.

"She mistook me for Bella, calling me a homewrecker, saying that if it weren't for me, she and Romeo would've been married by now, maybe even with kids of their own. She accused me of ruining their happiness."

Kenneth and Louisa were left speechless and flabbergasted by Serena's distorted values!

What kind of dirty words were these, coming from the young lady of the Collins family, who everyone thought was the epitome of grace and wisdom.

And she held such a deep grudge against Bella.

After all, she had previously pretended to be the world's greatest sister in front of them.

was just hypocritical,

who was buying it. It took a while, but we found a lead. This is the evidence of her and Martha scheming

continuous flatulence, stomach discomfort, constipation at first, then severe diarrhea, and hallucinations. The effects last for about twelve

such a nasty,

this!!!" Louisa slammed her hand on the armrest of the sofa, her regrets about keeping such an ingrate in their home multiplying, "All these years of kindness wasted

should have never

considering the years of care they had given her, Serena should not have treated Bella

Bella hadn't been knowledgeable about drugs, if she hadn't noticed and had drunk that lemon water, she would have been

aching with rage, "Of all the mistakes she could have made,

this was the underlying reason why Eunice turned a blind eye to Bella giving Serena a

Chapter 1745

"I've had people scouring the city and even Dawnstar for any sign of Martha, but she's nowhere to be found."

If Eunice ever got her hands on Martha, she'd give Martha a taste of her own medicine, with a good old-fashioned slap-fest and a no-holds-barred spanking.

The chaos in this household was Martha's handiwork, no doubt.

"There was this one time, I got a tip-off that someone had put a hit out on Bella. I managed to nab the hitman, but the guy was tight-lipped about who was behind it all. That is, until Bella showed up. Julian—well, he made the guy an offer. Spill the beans, and he'd get a shiny new identity complete with a faked death certificate."

Neither Kenneth nor Louisa could believe someone had tried to off Bella, let alone that she was cool as a cucumber, even negotiating with the hitman. Any other heiress would've been scared stiff.

nerves of steel

to think it over. However, by the end

disbelief. How could such a coincidence happen? Was

him right before it all went down.

shocked, "You mean to say

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of her own shadow since she was a kid,

Chapter 1746

"In the grimy basement, a man by the name of Hugh, unfortunate enough to be caged next to a hitman, was separated only by iron bars. Hugh made an offer to Serena. He could take out the hitman, but in return, Serena had to ensure that Martha would leverage the influence of Doom to free him. He couldn't be left to rot as a disposable pawn of the Doom. After a brief exchange with Martha, she agreed. So, Hugh proceeded to strangle the life out of the hitman, who accepted his fate without a struggle, preferring a silent death over endangering his family and friends."

Kenneth and Louisa were stunned beyond belief, their minds reeling from the revelation. The truth was far more twisted than they could have ever imagined.

Eunice, too, was caught off guard. Serena hadn't actually killed anyone, but to protect Martha, she had concealed the truth and played the innocent before them all.

If Hugh hadn't grown impatient in that claustrophobic cellar, tired of waiting for Martha to rescue him, and hadn't spilled the beans in a bid to save his own skin, they might still be in the dark.

Eunice took a sip of her coffee, setting down her mug with deliberate slowness. Her gaze drifted towards Kenneth and Louisa.

"Hugh mentioned that Serena said something at the time," Eunice recounted. "She asked Martha— didn't you say your hitman was reliable? So how did Auntie's people catch him and lock him up in her basement?"

What did that imply?

It meant Serena knew Martha intended to hire a hitman to commit murder, to kill Bella.

be

well be her real mother!" Louisa was livid, her heart twisting in agony.

darkness edging his vision, nearly causing him to

daughter' of eighteen years had conspired with an outsider to harm their

insult to dogs." Louisa seethed with rage. How could she? How could she conspire with Martha to have Bella killed? What had that poor child done wrong? After suffering for eighteen years, she

to be part of the Collins family. Even the name Serena is ours

Louisa's hand stood out starkly against her skin as she slapped the

was about to

on," Louisa suddenly added,

in case Serena tried any tricks, played dead, or attempted to



had to be

Meanwhile.

through Serena's mind over and over. She couldn't believe that the person who had loved her

her initial anguished cries to her now subdued sobs, she had wept

Chapter 1747

Nobody would ever be so considerate of her again.

Nobody would ever risk their life to protect her.

Just then, the door burst open.

Serena, startled, lifted her tear-stained face, taken aback to see a dozen uninvited guests before her.

Her cheeks glistened with the trails of fresh tears, eyes rimmed red, unable to comprehend why Edith had suddenly brought so many people.

"Ms. Serena." Betty began, noticing her tears and initially moved to comfort her. But remembering the things Serena had done, her voice trailed off, disappointment evident as she looked away, silent once more.

Not only was the lady disheartened, but even the servants, having seen the evidence, found Serena to be malicious and terrifying.

They had been blind to trust in her supposed kindness and innocence.

"Madam requests your presence at the main house," Edith announced without any term of endearment, her face stern as if summoning a criminal.

feeling washed over Serena as she eyed the group warily. "Did

you going to walk on your own, or shall these gentlemen behind

raced with panic. Could her parents have already learned about Martha kidnapping

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from the eighteenth floor

how could the news

underlings seeking revenge, Arabella, no matter how tough, couldn't have fought

parents got wind of

Martha was

that was the case, as long as she kept her mouth shut,

being

engagement to Romeo

she wiped away the last of her tears

crying for too long because, as she took a step, she felt dizzy. Her body swayed, and she nearly

that this wretched girl might have sensed something and was feigning illness

Chapter 1748

Meanwhile, Eunice pressed the remote control with a languid grace. "Also," she began, in a voice as calm as a still lake, "I've looked into the gifts you've lavished on her over the years—designer clothes, shoes, handbags, jewelry, properties, cars, even the boutique shops—everything's been sold. Martha took them all to international auctions to avoid your suspicion."

Kenneth and Louisa were stunned into silence, their shock morphing into stone.

"Perhaps fearing domestic sales would catch your attention, they took their business abroad. Most of the items have been sold off." Eunice added casually.

Exchanging worried glances, Kenneth and Louisa felt a chill run down their spines.

Putting aside Serena's urgent need for cash—even if she did need it, she had over ten million dollars in her account. And if that wasn't enough, why sell so many assets?

What was she planning?

Why did she suddenly need all that money?

Louisa's mind raced to a recent memory. "No wonder last month I stumbled upon Martha organizing a pile of Serena's unworn clothes and accessories. When I asked, she told me Serena wanted to donate them to the less fortunate in rural areas. At that time, I thought, what a kind-hearted child."

Martha had been secretly selling them off to line

It was utterly repugnant!

she need all that money for?" Kenneth asked Eunice, his voice barely concealing

a serene detachment, "My guess? She probably feels that with Bella back in the picture, eventually everything will go to her. As the adoptive

that to Serena, only the money

and cherished as our own?" Louisa turned to Kenneth, her eyes brimming with a sad, bitter

yet she saw them merely as ATMs, monkeys to

she wants an island abroad, the next

had indeed raised a

elegantly on the couch, as imposing and intellectual as ever, struck her. Uncle Bard looked at her with the eyes of a

her eyes shut in a mix of grief and anger, who caught her attention. After

Kenneth, with a hand pressed

Chapter 1749

Why would Mother hit her??

"Mom, what's wrong. Did I do something wrong??"

Never before, even when she had made the gravest mistakes, had her mother laid a hand on her.

What was different today??

"Look at the mess you've made—" Louisa, seething with anger, pointed at the projection on the wall.

Eunice had set up a slideshow, and only now did Serena realize with utter shock that there was a projection on the wall!!

As the list of her past misdeeds unfolded before her eyes, including fighting with Arabella over a dress, splashing wine on Arabella, slipping a drug into Arabella's drink, and even hiding the truth about a killer's death.

The more Serena saw, the colder and shakier she felt. Was this why Mother was confronting her?

Was it Eunice?!

and

would Eunice want to hurt

Eunice. Only Eunice would do this because Eunice adored Arabella and

she turned to look at Eunice,

to wrap up some business, and I'd

Serena's spine, leaving her

What to do??

could she explain

enough to send

Chapter 1750

Serena felt a cold shiver run down her spine, her face drained of color.

Growing up, her mother had never used such foul language to scold her. Before Arabella came into the picture, she was the family's darling princess, doted on by everyone. She got everything she wanted with just the snap of her fingers, living a life of luxury and ease.

But now, her mother was unleashing such venomous words at her, had kicked her twice, and slapped her across the face.

Before Arabella's return, would her mother have ever dreamed of treating her like this?

Every harsh word, every action cut like a knife, stabbing deep into Serena's heart.

Watching her mother tremble with anger, tears streamed down Serena's face, "Mom."

"Don't you dare call me 'mom' again. You're not worthy." Louisa pointed an accusing finger, her voice choked with cold anger and disappointment, "We raised you for eighteen years, treating you like a treasure, always at your beck and call. While you lived in the lap of luxury, throwing money around like confetti, our own flesh and blood suffered for a full eighteen years out there!"

didn't throw you out on the street right away. Instead, we treated you like our own daughter, allowing you to continue living a pampered life, surrounded by luxury

or gratitude, all we hoped was that you would get along with our true daughter. But you went behind our backs time and time again to

for us, but after eighteen years, you nearly killed our own beloved girl!

panic-stricken, desperate to explain, but Louisa closed

in the past, the more they now felt a

blind, not seeing their own daughter's suffering

then that Kenneth called urgently, "Romeo sent a message, it looks like something's happened to

rushed over, and saw that Romeo had sent several videos, the first of which seemed to show their daughter

and Bard, unable to see, suggested, "Honey, cast the video

Kenneth quickly handed

connector for the phone, and once connected,

Arabella with countless henchmen, even tying